

AM I EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Does your partner...

- ☐ Act or look at you in ways that scare you?
- ☐ Intimidate you with his/her temper?
- ☐ Act like the abuse is no big deal, blame you for the abuse, or even deny doing it?
- ☐ Control what you do, who you see or talk to, where you go, or isolate you?
- ☐ Hit, kick, punch, slap, push or shove you?
- ☐ Put you down or threaten you?
- ☐ Take your money or refuse to give you money?
- ☐ Keep you away from your family and friends?
- ☐ Destroy your property or threaten to kill your pets?
- ☐ Force you to have sex?
- ☐ Threaten to commit suicide?
- ☐ Threaten to kill you or your children?

If you answer **YES** to any of these questions you may be experiencing domestic abuse. Help is Available.

Crime Victims Have the Right To:

- Be treated with fairness, dignity, and a respect for privacy
- Be reasonably protected from the accused offender
- Be notified of court proceedings
- Be present at public court proceedings unless the court determines otherwise for fairness or other good cause
- Confer with the Government attorney
- Restitution, if appropriate
- Receive information regarding the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, and release of the offender

Help is Available

Military One Source
CONUS: 1-800-342-9647
OCONUS: 00-800-3429-6477
To call collect (with operator assistance):
OCONUS 484-530-5908
www.myarmyonesource.com

Fort Polk ACS/FAP 24-Hour On-Call Victim Advocacy Program (VAP)

~To Speak With A Victim Advocate After Duty Hours/Weekends &/Or On A Holiday: Call DES @ (337) 531-COPS (2677), Or The HOPELINE @ (337) 531-HOPE (4673) & Ask To Have A Victim Advocate Contact You~

~To Make a Report: Call The 24 Hour Report Line - (HOPELINE) - (337) 531-HOPE (4673)~

~For Emergencies Dial - "911" or (337) 531-COPS (2677)~



The Army Family Advocacy Program

Fort Polk Victim Advocacy Program (VAP)

1591 Bell Richard Avenue,
Fort Polk, LA 71459
(337) 531-6333/1938

Here To Help!

*If You Would Like To Help By Becoming A VAP
Volunteer, Please Call (337) 531-6333/1938*

*If You Would Like To Help By Contributing
Through The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
To The Fort Polk Victim Advocacy Program, Our
Number is "29885"*



The Army Family Advocacy Program Victim Advocacy Services

What is the Army Family Covenant?

The Army Family Covenant commits the Army to provide Soldiers and Families a Quality of Life commensurate with their level of service and sacrifice. Domestic abuse undermines the Army's promise and negatively impacts Family Readiness. The Army Family Advocacy Program's Victim Advocacy Services are integral to the Army's efforts to uphold its commitment to provide Soldiers and Family members with a strong, supportive environment.

What is a Victim Advocate?

A Victim Advocate (VA) is a trained professional who provides *non-clinical* advocacy services and support to Soldiers and Family members experiencing domestic abuse. Victim advocates are on-call 24 hours a day/7 days a week to provide crisis intervention, safety planning, *non-judgmental* support, assistance in securing medical treatment for injuries, information on legal rights and proceedings, and referrals to military and civilian resources. The on-call VA will empower you to make informed and independent decisions to support your recovery process.

What is Domestic Abuse?

Effective Sept. 13, 2011, DODD defined Domestic Violence as: An offense under the United States Code, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or state law that involves the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force or violence against a person or a violation of a lawful order issued for the protection of a person who is: a. A current or former spouse, b. A person with whom the abuser shares a child in common and/or c. Is a current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.

What are my Options for Reporting Domestic Abuse?

Soldiers and Family members who experience domestic abuse are encouraged to report the incident to a VA to access the full range of supportive services, including:

Restricted Reporting – Allows victims the option of receiving medical treatment, advocacy and counseling without triggering the official investigation or Command involvement.

Unrestricted Reporting – Victims receive medical treatment, advocacy, counseling, and an official investigation of the allegation. This option allows the widest range of rights and protections to the victim.

Am I Eligible for Restricted Reporting?

The Domestic Abuse Restricted Reporting Option is available to Soldiers, Family member spouses, and intimate partners.

Are There Exceptions to Restricted Reporting?

Safety is of the utmost importance, thus exceptions to the Restricted Reporting Policy do exist to prevent or lessen a serious threat to the health/safety of the victim or others. Your VA will explain in detail the exceptions and eligibility requirements for restricted reporting.



What Services Can I Expect from the Victim Advocate?

- ▶ Crisis intervention and non-clinical support
- ▶ Safety assessment and planning
- ▶ Information on the Transitional Compensation Program
- ▶ Coordination of emergency services; transportation, housing, food, etc.
- ▶ Assistance in obtaining protective orders
- ▶ Accompaniment throughout the medical, investigative and legal processes
- ▶ Representation of victims' interests at Family Advocacy Case Review Committee meetings
- ▶ Information and referral

How Can I Protect Myself and My Children?

- ▶ Make a safety plan; a VA can help
- ▶ Have an emergency kit with money, medical cards, checkbook, car keys, birth certificates and other I.D., pay stubs, medicine and important phone numbers
- ▶ Plan an escape route out of your home; teach it to your children
- ▶ Know your resources (e.g., shelter, transportation and money)
- ▶ Ask family, friends and others for help
- ▶ Call the police or have someone else call
- ▶ Get medical help if you have injuries
- ▶ Ask the doctor, nurse or a friend to take pictures; save any ripped or bloody clothes as evidence and provide to either the health care provider or law enforcement
- ▶ Discuss available safety measures with the VA, including a Military Protective Order

We Listen.

We Act.

We Care.